April 7th 2004

Hispanic News

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KATHY GONZALES, RIVERSIDE ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY, SUCCUMBS

Kathy Gonzales, 51, Riverside Assistant City Attorney, succumbs to cancer. Photo by IEHN

Before her tenure at the City's Attorney Office in 1984, Gonzales served at the Inland Counties Legal Aid Foundation and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. She graduated from the University of California, Riverside in 1974 and received her law degree from the University of California, Davis.

Gonzales legal responsibilities included many of the city's departments, and more directly in the area of land use and planning issues before the planning commission and city council. Other areas of legal advisement were to public officials on financial and development projects, including many recent large city developments.

Gonzales was known throughout the city as having a very even composure, even in extreme situations, and was able to provide exceptional legal advice.

Irene Morales, director of the Inland Counties Legal Aid Foundation and lifelong friend, said in a telephone interview that Gonzales was very skilled and always prepared in her legal work. "Kathy was very compassionate about people and those in need. She contributed many hours of pro bono work for persons needing legal aid." Morales also said that Gonzales was known throughout the city as having a very even composure, even in extreme situations, and was able to provide exceptional legal advice.

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Recently, *The Sun* printed several articles concerning Pacific High School's performance levels on the State's Academic Performance Index (API) in the March 30 and March 31 Paul Oberjueger columns, and articles on student unrest at Cajon High on March 27 ("Cajon High Clash Raises Concerns") and March 30 ("Schools have Growing Problem on Their Hands"). These articles highlighted areas of concern for students, and District personnel, as well as for the entire community. It is the firm commitment of the Board of Education and the entire teaching and administrative staffs in the San Bernardino Unified School District to continue to take actions to improve in these critical areas.

To this end, we feel it is important to share some strategies and ongoing actions that have been in place for over two years at both of these schools. This information was shared with reporters, but was not mentioned in the articles.

For the record, Pacific offers intensive math and language-arts classes before and after the regular school day, and it has expanded its Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) (Advancement) program that has proven to improve student achievement. Pacific offers Advancement Placement and Honors classes in all content disciplines, operates an excellent ROP Nursing program, has a state of the art auto shop, and an award winning Fine Arts program, just to name a few.

Also, Mr. Oberjueger failed to mention that Pacific High students recently ranked sixth out of 41 teams in San Bernardino County for their Academic Decathlon, a high competitive academic competition. The top-scoring student in the entire county, Joshua Pierce-Funqueke, is a Pacific student, who also placed first in Literature and in Super Quiz. In the MESA (Math Engineering Science Achieve-ment) competition held at UCI, three Pacific students placed third scoring higher than students from Riverside, Imperial, San Diego, and Fresno counties in the Algebra I, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus competitions. An Arroyo Valley High School student, Dolores Dickson, placed first in the 9th grade SAT Verbal, et cetera.

Our school district is very proactive in preventing student violence on campus and in our community. Cajon High students are known for their longstanding efforts to foster an environment of the UNITY Forums they have organized at Cajon and schools across the state. The forums, honored as one of six highly effective violence-reduction programs, are designed to breakdown stereotypes and help students better understand and accept their differences and breakdown stereotypes and help students better understand and accept their differences and similarities. The new Safe School Ambassadors Program held a two-day youth workshop in February 2004 at Cajon. Students were taught how to defuse situations through effective communication and problem-solving skills. The Pastors on the Premises mentoring program at six District sites, including Cajon and Arroyo Valley High Schools, has resulted in fewer discipline problems during the school day.

We agree that there is a need for our continued best efforts and commitments to see improvement in all areas that affect the lives of our students. There is certainly no room for non-action. We believe that the vast majority of our students are law abiding, with great potential for meaningful contributions to our community. We believe that our teaching staffs and administrators are committed to student success. We believe that we are headed in the right direction with decreasing dropout rates, increasing college rates, for two terms, the Blueprint for Volunteer Diversity, Riverside Community College-Puente Mentoring Program, County's Mock Trial Competition, and co-founder and past president of the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association.

Judge Taylor, who was Gonzales' professor at UCR, was instrumental in directing her to UC-Davis to continue her legal education.

Kathy Gonzales, Riverside Assistant City Attorney, succumbs

When starting as an attorney, Gonzales and Gil Gutierrez, local attorney, fought developers who were attempting to demolish low-rent housing. Both lawyers fought the developers for years and eventually won the case for the renters and continuation of low-cost housing in the region. "We are going to miss her very much," she said.

Gonzales was very committed to serving the community. She served on several community groups: Community Foundation Board of Directors, five years of meeting and exceeding our District API target growth scores, and exemplary programs that have received state and national recognition.

We invite the members of our community to see the excellent programs themselves through our Principal For A Day program. We welcome the communities' participation in the San Bernardino Community Scholarship Association, which awarded $4,448,763 in scholarships to 148 graduates in the class of 2003. Support our schools by enrolling in the Adopt-A-School Program and join over 155 local businesses and service groups that have pledged their support to schools across the District by providing incentives and resources that enhance the educational experience for our students.

We are proud of the accomplishments we have made and we are confident that we will continue to improve our academic progress on API and we will continue to build cohesive, peaceful, and safe school environments for all students.

Sincerely,
Arturo Delgado, Ed D
Superintendent San Bernardino School District
RIVERSIDE SALUTES MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

GFE Coffee House
NEW GRAND TERRACE LOCATION
22421 Barton Road at Mt. Vernon (State Box Center)

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By one Mocha get the second Mocha Free

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Inland Empire Hispanic News
Wednesday, April 7, 2004

Staff Sgt. Ysmael Villegas' 80th birthday was celebrated by family, friends and civil leaders at the Riverside City Hall. Villegas was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Family, friends, city officials and veterans gathered at Riverside City Hall in a memorial to honor the 80th birthday of Riverside former resident and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sergeant Ysmael R. Villegas.

In a sunny Saturday morning, Charles Villegas', son, gave the Pledge of Allegiance as his former wife, and ten brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and the large audience solemnly voiced their pledge to the Flag to which the Honoree gave his life.

Riverside Mayor Ron Leveridge spoke on the Casablanca (a suburb of Charles Villegas', son, gave the Pledge of Allegiance as his former wife, and ten brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and the large audience solemnly voiced their pledge to the Flag to which the Honoree gave his life.

Riverside Mayor Ron Leveridge spoke on the Casablanca (a suburb of Riverside) native who joined the Army to serve his country, leaving behind a large family of siblings. "He, like many men in World War II, served our country and many, like Villegas, made the ultimate sacrifice. We join the family in honoring our hometown hero," he said.

Alex Candelaria, retired parole officer, and Vietnam veteran reviewed Villegas' history and his heroic acts. Villegas was drafted in 1944, receiving his basic training in Fort Roberts. After his basic training, he married Lili Sanchez. He was assigned to Company F, 127th Infantry, and 32nd Division, commonly known as the "Red Arrow Division."

The 32nd was directed to initiate a drive up the Verde Trail, known as the "the trail" in Luzon, Philippine Islands, a mountainous rainforest providing concealment and many caves, to confront the Japanese 10th Division of 6,000 men.

Villegas unit confronted the enemy who was entrenched in the hills and foxholes. Daring actions by individual soldiers in one of these battles resulted in the awarding of the Congressional Medal of Honor to three individuals.

Staff Sgt. Villegas' courage and heroic leadership inspired his men to push forward. Encountering firepower from a foxhole, Villegas, disregarding for his safety, charged an enemy position and killed the enemy.

He rushed a second foxhole while bullets missed him by inches and killed more of the enemy. In rapid succession, he charged a third, fourth and fifth foxhole, destroying the enemy. The fire against him increased in intensity; however, he pressed forward to attack a sixth position.

Villegas was killed while attacking the full force of the enemy power. He fulfilled the heritage of the Red Arrow to always "penetrate the enemy lines." He fell one day short of his 21st birthday, however, the enemy lost the battle.

His death incensed the soldiers who charged the enemy positions while the enemy concentrated their fire on Villegas and their efforts swept through the strong point. When the charge was over, 75 of the enemy lay dead in the foxholes, neutralizing five enemy gun positions, and inspired the men to victory. Villegas reportedly saved approximately 400 trapped American soldiers from being killed.

His actions defied true courage, strength of body and spirit under merciless fire, Candelaria said.

Three weeks prior on March 1, Villegas had been presented with the Silver Star for gallantry in combat by destroying an enemy machine gun nest.

On October 19, 1945, Staff Sergeant Villegas was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions.

Dr. Wendell Tucker, Ysmael Villegas Middle School's principal, described how students at the school have developed a 'village' pride in honor of Villegas. He presented awards to eight students who won in a school art contest.

Students hold up the banner of Staff Sgt. Ysmael Villegas Middle School. The school has developed a village pride in honor of Villegas.
CESAR CHAVEZ CELEBRATION IN SAN BERNARDINO AT THE GENTS CENTER

DEDICATION TO EDUCATION LOUIS & EDWARD RODRIGUEZ

Louie and Edward Rodriguez, sons of Louis and Elva Rodriguez, San Bernardino, are finalizing their higher education goals to pursue dual careers in the teaching profession, primarily to direct their educational backgrounds and ideals to teach young Chicano/Latino children in minority neighborhood schools.

Both young men were raised in Colton. Louie attended preschool to high school in Colton and later attended San Bernardino Valley College. He transferred to Cal State, San Bernardino and graduated with a BA in Psychology with an emphasis in Education. At CSUSB, Chicano faculty member David Chavez encouraged him to attend graduate school. Louie applied and was accepted at Harvard University. Since then, he has received two M.A. Degrees, in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy. He is currently a fourth year doctoral candidate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"I firmly believe that for the richest nation in the world, there is no reason why all Chicano/Latino children should not be entitled to an equitable, just, and empowering education. I am committed to doing everything possible that all Chicano/Latino children receive the education they deserve."

Edward, his younger brother, attended McKinley School in Colton partially in the sixth grade when the family moved to San Bernardino. In San Bernardino, he completed sixth grade at Northpark Elementary School, Shandin Hills Middle School and graduated from Cajon High School in June 1998.

Edward applied and was accepted at the University of Oklahoma. He received an undergraduate degree in Mathematics Education in May 2003. He is currently enrolled at the University of California, Los Angeles, pursuing a teaching credential and masters degree.

"I have a strong desire to educate underrepresented students of color in urban inner-city public schools. Being a Chicano, there is a special and constant awareness on my part in this community and hope to empower these diverse students as a social justice educator."

Father Louis Rodriguez said in a telephone interview that there was always an emphasis on education in the home and both sons were encouraged to take advantage of the good education out there. "We supported everything they did in school and urged them to get as much education as possible. Their mother and I are very proud of their accomplishments. The Rodriguez’s have a son, Eric, that recently graduated from Cajon High School. He is planning follow in his brothers’ footsteps. The parents are enrolled at San Bernardino Valley College.

LATINO LABOR

A report by the Pew Hispanic Center shows Hispanics measured strong employment gains last year—adding nearly twice as many jobs as non Hispanic workers. It was the first time since January 2000, the center says, that Hispanics experienced sustained increases in employment that outpaced population growth. The number of employed Hispanics increased by 659,641 from the fourth quarter of 2002 to the fourth quarter of 2003—more than double the increase in employment in the preceding year, and nearly double the increase in employment in the preceding year, and nearly double the 371,066 increase in the number of employed non-Hispanics.

The report, which analyzes data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau, also says the proportion of the Hispanic working age population that is employed rose in the last half of last year, reaching 63.3 percent in December as the Hispanic jobless rate dropped to 6.6 percent. Construction, business services, wholesale and retail, agriculture, forestry and fishing, and mining industries were the major sources of employment for Hispanics in 2003, the study says.

The study notes, however, that the mean weekly wages for Hispanics remained relatively stagnant.
The Gents Organization sponsored its Annual Student Scholarship Fundraiser at the Community Center attended by over 650 persons from throughout the Inland Empire. President Tony Diaz, spoke to the large crowd, "The Gents Organization has awarded scholarships to students at high schools in the Inland Empire, a tradition that has existed for over three decades. We are proud to be able to help our students go into higher education and become successful in their careers."

Diaz also expressed his appreciation to the audience and sponsors for the "overwhelming" support to make the event a financial success.

The seven-hour event included dinner, raffles and our outstanding Latin bands, MALO, TIERRA, THE CASUALS AND NIGHT LIFE.

San Bernardino School District Superintendent Dr. Arthur Delgado presented a plaque to the Gents Organization in recognition for their many years of contributing scholarships to students in the San Bernardino School District.

Diaz recognized individuals for their contribution to the Gents Organization: Susan Diaz for her many hours of volunteer work with projects sponsored by the Gents Organization. Susan Diaz is daughter of Carlos and Martha Diaz, and a loan officer for American World Finance; and Carla Rodriguez, owner of Starr-Al, Inc, and Fatima Reyes, co-sponsors of the event.

The Gents Organization organized as a youth group during the early 1950's and involved in social and sports activities, and volunteering in the numerous activities in the Westside of San Bernardino. The group disbanded and in 1972, reorganized as a non-profit organization with Pete Ramos as its first president. The Gents have since contributed to many other non-profit groups, especially youth groups, sponsoring events and involved in numerous community activities.

Llame antes de cavar.

Siempre es conveniente saber donde están enterradas las líneas de servicios públicos subterráneas antes de comenzar cualquier tipo de proyecto que implique cavar. Las líneas pueden estar escondidas debajo de calles y senderos; incluso debajo de terranos vacantes y la larga de los límites de una propiedad. Siempre que necesite cavar en su patio o excavando para un proyecto comercial, la ley requiere que antes llame al servicio de ubicación Dig Alert. Dentro de dos días laborales luego de su llamada, cada servicio público visitará su propiedad y marcará donde se encuentran sus instalaciones, para que de esta forma usted o su contratista pueda cavar con seguridad. No obtener la ubicación apropiada de las líneas de los servicios subterráneos puede tener como consecuencia multas significativas y costosas facturas de reparación. Para seguridad de todos llame a Dig Alert, al número de teléfono sin cargo, dos días laborales antes de comenzar a cavar. Es simple, es gratis, es la ley.
ANTONIO ARREDONDO, JR. APPOINTED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. David Long, Riverside County Superintendent of Schools, announced the appointment of Antonio Arredondo, Jr. as the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Services at the Riverside County Office of Education. Arredondo, currently superintendent of the Perris (elementary) School District, replaces Dr. Damon Castillo, Jr. who is retiring.

Antonio Arredondo has been superintendent of the Perris School District since 1992. He is a former director of staff development of the Perris School District and former school principal in Perris. He was an elementary school teacher in the Jurupa Unified School District and a program assistant in Head Start/State Preschool for RCOE.

"I am extremely proud of what I have accomplished during my 12-year tenure as superintendent of the Perris School District," Arredondo said. "I will miss all of the good people who work for this district. I am excited to have this opportunity to join the Riverside County Office of Education and be part of Dr. Dave Long's team."

LATINO LABOR

The report also says last year's gains were uneven: Foreign-born males and construction-industry workers enjoyed the biggest increases in employment, but women and native-born Hispanics did not see similar gains. For more information, www.pewhispanic.org.

SALE REPS WANTED

The IEHN is seeking assertive persons as sale representatives within the INLAND EMPIRE. GOOD commissions. Call (909) 381-6259 for appointment.

CONSOLIDATED PLAN

To receive the 2003-2004 CDBG, ESG, and HOME grant funds, the County prepared a consolidated grant application to HUD. The County's 2000-2005 Consolidated Plan and 2003-2004 Action Plan formed the Grant Application. On April 15, 2003, the County of San Bernardino Board of Supervisors approved the proposed Consolidated Plan and Action Plan. Upon completion of the public review period and after all comments were received and considered, the final Consolidated Plan and Action Plan was prepared. The final Consolidated Plan and Action Plan was submitted to HUD on May 30, 2003 for funding approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

For a period of thirty (30) days beginning on March 29, 2004 and ending on April 28, 2004, the public is invited to submit written comments on this proposed amendment. Comments received after 5:00 p.m., April 28, 2004, cannot be considered in the preparation of the amended Consolidated Plan. Send comments to the County Department of Economic and Community Development at the address shown below.

If you challenge any decision regarding the above proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the meeting.

Due to time constraints and the number of persons wishing to give oral testimony, time restrictions may be placed on oral testimony at the public hearing regarding this proposal. You may make your comments in writing to assure that you are able to express yourself adequately.

San Bernardino County Department of Economic and Community Development; 290 North "D" Street, Sixth Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0040; Attn: Program and Compliance Section or call (909) 388-0959.
INLAND EMPIRE ACTIVITIES

Workshops for Westside senior citizens, Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 1601 Seventh Street Medical Center Dr. San Bernardino 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
No Cost workshops sponsored by the 16th St. Senior Citizen Ministry. The workshops will include information on Trust & Estate Planning, free tax service by the Franchise Tax Board, services offered by County of San Bernardino Dept. of Aging (house painting, yard clean up, weatherization for both renters and homeowners). All seniors are welcome. For information call (909) 888-0084.

ALLIANCE FOR EDUCATION, "Linking Learning to Living". Sponsored by SB County Dept. of Children's Services and Big Bear Mountain premium spring water and First S. Training Workshops on Positive discipline, Anger Management, Brain Development & Parenting. Fun activities for the kids: creative art, storytelling; crafts, planetarium show. Vendors including: Health Screening, Car seat clinic, children's books, toys, community info and food. Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

San Bernardino Valley College. Co-sponsored by SB County Dept. of Children's Services and Big Bear Mountain premium spring water and First S. Training Workshops on Positive discipline, Anger Management, Brain Development & Parenting. Fun activities for the kids: creative art, storytelling; crafts, planetarium show. Vendors including: Health Screening, Car seat clinic, children's books, toys, community info and food. Saturday, April 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Home of Neighborly Service, 839 N. Mt. Vernon Ave. San Bernardino. A MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION: Live Music, entertainment and a wonderful dinner with many special gifts. $10:00 per person. Sponsor a table of 10 for $100.00. For reservations call (909) 885-3491.

S. B. LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SALUTES OUTSTANDING PERSONS

San Bernardino League of Women Voters selected 18 outstanding persons who personified the commitment to their community through volunteer work and involvement in special projects. The following three recipients exemplify the selection of outstanding selectees.

Argie Brogdon, Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino member, volunteers in numerous community projects and devotes her artistic talents to fundraising activities. Photo by IEHN

Marie Arakaki, Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino member, is involved in special projects for children and scholarship fundraisers. Photo by IEHN

Grand Terrace Councilperson Bev Cortez was selected for her fundraising efforts on behalf of the Grand Terrace Library. Photo by IEHN

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS/QUOTATIONS

Notice is hereby given that proposals will be accepted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765 for the following:

- Ozone Analyzers for Air Quality Monitoring Network
- Security Guard Services at Diamond Bar Service Awards
- Pre-Qualify Vendors of Security Guard Services Awards

Bid No. Title Bidders' Conference Closing Date Contact Person
P0040-01 Security Guard Services at Diamond Bar 11:00 a.m. 5/4/04 Arun Roychowdhury
P0040-02 Ozone Analyzers for Air Quality Monitoring Network 1:00 p.m. 4/20/04 Sylvia Oroz
P0040-03 Pre-Qualify Security Guard Services Awards 2:00 p.m. 5/4/04 Arun Roychowdhury

Persons attending a bidders' conference should confirm their attendance by calling the contact person. Bids will not be accepted from anyone not attending a mandatory bidders' conference. The BIDDER may be obtained through the Internet at http://www.aqmd.gov under Proposals if you have internet access or would like a copy of the BIDDOC, maker us in writing to the contact person.

It is the policy of the AQMD to award all businesses including minority-owned businesses, women-owned businesses, disabled veteran-owned businesses and small businesses an equal and equitable opportunity to compete for and participate in AQMD contracts.

Procurement Unit

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READY, AIM, FUTURE!
RPD Law Enforcement Career Expo
If you are interested in a career in Law Enforcement, Riverside Police Department units demonstrating their services invite you to the Career Expo.
- Learn Interviewing Skills
- Speak to Officers and Management staff
- Hear Guest Speakers
- See Riverside Police Dept. units demonstrating their services
- Learn about the various work units in the Police Dept.: Dispatching, Motorcycle Teams, Helicopter Unit, Narcotics, Canine, SWAT and more...
Saturday, May 15, 2004, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Fairmount Park in Riverside.

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Lge 1-8 2-Bdrm Apts & Studios.
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(909) 883-0514
Rialto (909) 877-0429
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(909) 428-1619

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Drink plenty of water even if you are not thirsty. Eight glasses a day is ideal.

Your tree is waiting for you.
“Who’s happy to help the City of Riverside Public Utilities promote their TREE POWER program and help everyone be more energy-efficient with near shade trees?”
Parkview Nursery in Arlington is waiting for you. Waiting for you to come in and redeem your Free Shade Tree Coupon from the back of your March Riverside Public Utilities bill. What are you waiting for? By planting shade trees around your property, you can dramatically reduce your cooling costs. Bring your coupon in today to Parkview or seven other participating nurseries in town. For more on our TREE POWER Free Shade Tree Promotion visit riversidepublicutilities.com, or call 826-5485.

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Green Power - Good for Riverside, Good for the World